

LX.—On *Equus Penricei*, a Representative of the Mountain Zebra (*Equus zebra*, L.) discovered by Mr. W. Penrice in Angola. By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

DURING his last expedition to Angola Mr. W. Penrice discovered an animal which he rightly recognized as a representative of the Mountain Zebra, hitherto only known \* from South Africa, and now, alas, nearly exterminated there.

Of this most interesting animal he brought home a flat skin, which on examination proves to possess the deeper and more essential characters of *E. zebra*, such as the forward slope of the median dorsal hairs, the presence of a "gridiron-pattern" on the rump, &c., but to differ from it so much in other details that it clearly cannot be assigned to the typical form of that species. The only question is as to whether it should be considered a species or subspecies; but since it is now isolated geographically, and its general appearance is so strikingly different from that of *E. zebra*, it would seem necessary to call it a species until at least any evidence is brought forward that intermediate specimens occur. To no other species than *E. zebra* is it at all allied, although the equal striping of the body, the short close fur, and the buffy tone of the light stripes give it a superficial resemblance to *E. Grevyi*, which it may be said to rival in the extreme handsomeness of its markings.

*Equus Penricei*, sp. n.

Spinal hair-slope, character of rump-stripes, gridiron-pattern of loins, and complete striping of limbs as in *E. zebra*. Size apparently rather larger than in that animal, but exact measurements are not at present available. Fur short, close, and glossy, the hairs of the back only about 5 millim. in length, and therefore very different from the comparatively long and shaggy hairs of *E. zebra*. Light ground-colour not white, as in *E. zebra*, but buffy or creamy dun, as in *E. Grevyi*, lightening, however, nearly to white on the belly. Dark bands glossy brownish black. Striping throughout modified from that of *E. zebra* by the broadening of the light and the narrowing of the dark bands, the light bands being everywhere (with the exception of those on the sides of the neck) as broad as or broader than the dark ones, the latter being far the

\* In Prof. Bocage's "List of the Mammals of Angola" (J. Sci. Lib. (2) v. p. 23, 1890) "*Equus zebra*" is included, on the strength of observers who had seen zebras in Southern Angola. Although *E. Burchelli* is more common there, Bocage's name may in part refer to Penrice's zebra.

broader on all parts of the allied species. This difference is most noticeable along the back, where, instead of dark stripes about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide alternating with white ones of half an inch, both light and dark are equally about 1 inch wide. Similarly on the face all the fine light stripes are broader than the dark ones, which latter are, as usual, reddish instead of black. On the ears again the white is increased at the expense of the black. The transverse dorsal markings on the whole are rather more uniform and less irregular than in *E. zebra*, and they are throughout (except in two cases) divided from each other by a well-defined narrow median black line which runs from the withers right through on to the tail. The gridiron-pattern of the loins is essentially similar to that of *E. zebra*, but owing to the alteration in the proportions of the colours would rather be called black markings on a buff ground instead of white ones on a black ground. Upper light rump-stripe nearly twice the breadth of that of *E. zebra*.

Length of the tanned skin, from tip of nose to base of tail, 8 feet 4 inches.

*Hab.* Mossamedes, Southern Angola. Type from Providencia, near the River Moninho, about 70 kilometres N.E. of Mossamedes. Altitude 300 m.

*Type.* Male. B.M. no. 0. 9. 12. 1. Shot in May 1900 by Mr. G. W. Penrice.

Mr. Penrice informs me that the country where this zebra is found consists of sand-flats dotted all over with stone kopjes in a state of disintegration, the flats in many cases being thickly strewn with boulders. He had heard of zebras being occasionally found on the top of the Chella range, 2100 metres, but was unable to say to which species they belonged.

He had first met the magnificent animal with which I have associated his name on the Coroca River, 50 kilometres east of Port Alexander, and at an elevation of only 180 m., and was also told that a zebra of this species had been shot some two years ago within a few miles of the sea.

LXI.—*New Peruvian Species of Conepatus, Phyllotis, and Akodon.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

*Conepatus arequipæ*, sp. n.

Closely allied to the Ecuadorean *C. quitensis*, with which it agrees in the great breadth of the white stripes anteriorly. Size rather less than in that animal. Fur of body long and